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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

10 May 61

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

Refer to: I-18203/61

Dear Allen:

The preparation of SNIE 58-61 on an urgent basis is much appreciated and I believe the Estimate serves a very useful purpose.

I share your concern over the need for a longer range study dealing with courses of action which may become feasible and desirable over the course of the next year.

It is very possible that the outset of the rainy season may find us in the same military situation as now prevailing. We must be prepared for the long haul. I believe it would be most useful to have representatives of State, ISA, CIA (and I would add JCS) meet informally to discuss and list additional steps which would contribute to the achievement of U.S. objectives. As you suggest, these measures could then be examined by the intelligence community for an estimate of their possible compact. If you agree, I suggest that the representatives of the above mentioned agencies who currently are members of the Laos Task Force get together as soon as practicable to explore this area.

Sincerely,

Paul H. Nitze

The Honorable Allen W. Dulles  
Director, Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington 25, D. C.

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Dulles: *11/2/61*

*GENERAL CABELL* *CPC*

A copy of this letter has already been sent to Bob Amory for his comments and preparation of an appropriate reply for your signature. After you have noted, I will show this to General Cabell.

*To*

*11/2/61*  
AAB

8 Mar. 61

(DATE)

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